

[English]

Noise Pollution

3706. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the cities and towns where the noise pollution is increasing;

(b) if so, the details and the extent of noise pollution there;

(c) whether any formal study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to curb the noise pollution in these cities and towns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. (SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) to (d) An increasing trend of noise has been noticed in the major metropolitan cities of India. Central Pollution Control Board had conducted noise pollution surveys in eighteen major cities of the country, namely, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Calcutta, Chennai, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mangalore, Mumbai, Vadodara and Visakhapatnam. Studies have indicated that the noise levels were generally found within the limits in industrial areas but often exceeded the prescribed standards in certain areas in commercial, residential and silence zones. The rising trend of noise in these cities is mainly due to increase in human activities and vehicular traffic.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following :

- Noise pollution has been included in the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, as amended in 1987. Ambient standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipments at the manufacturing stage.
- The Central Pollution Control Board has evolved codes of practice for controlling noise from sources other than industries and automobiles. These

include public address system, aircraft operations, railway operations, construction activities and bursting of crackers. State Governments have been asked to implement these codes of practice under the relevant local laws.

- Environmental awareness campaigns on the effects of noise pollution have been launched through governmental and non-governmental organisations.

[Translation]

Drought Affected Areas of Maharashtra

3707. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the drought affected places in Maharashtra due to non-occurrence of rains;

(b) the average rainfall recorded in these areas and the quantum of rainfall recorded there this year;

(c) the extent of damage caused to crops as a result of low rainfall; and

(d) the amount allocated for such drought affected areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) According to information received from the Government of Maharashtra, 1906 villages in six districts are affected by drought conditions in varying degrees due to deficient rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 1996. The details of the districts and the affected villages are given below:—

Sl.No.	District	No. of affected villages
1.	Raigarh	2
2.	Dhule	89
3.	Ahmednagar	150
4.	Bhandara	1097
5.	Chandrapur	355
6.	Gadchiroli	213
Total		1906